GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:163
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
TRANSPORT AND STORAGE FACILITY
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a considerable percentage of total production fruits and vegetables in the country perish every year due to the non-availability of adequate transport and storage facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcome the problems?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): No survey has been conducted by the Government to assess the loss of fruits and vegetables in the country. However, a Committee chaired by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has reported a loss of 25 to 30% of perishable items.

(c): The National Horticulture Board, is implementing programmes aimed at reducing the wastage of horticultural produce through the following schemes:-

(i) `Capital investment subsidy scheme for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storage for horticulture produce`, and

(ii) Development of commercial horticulture through production and post-harvest management.

Besides, the Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `National Horticulture Mission` during 2005-06 under which assistance for creating post-harvest management infrastructure has been envisaged.